



California
Environmental
Protection
Agency

**Air
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Board**

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1-800-END-SMOG

Limits On School Bus Idling At Schools



THE IDLING PROBLEM

Daily, more than 26,000 school buses and numerous other buses and heavy-duty vehicles operate at or near schools.

Unnecessary idling exposes children, parents, teachers, and near-by residents to diesel particulate matter and other toxic air contaminants, as well as the associated potential cancer risk and other adverse health effects.

What are the Potential Adverse Health Impacts?

- eye and respiratory irritation
- enhanced respiratory allergic reactions
- asthma exacerbation
- cancer

Should Children Stop Riding the School Bus?

No, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, school buses are one of the safest forms of transportation.

THE SOLUTION

A Statewide regulation to limit school bus idling and other idling at and near schools grades K-12, regardless of fuel type and whether or not children are present or school is in session.

1) When at School

School bus, transit bus, and commercial motor vehicle drivers are required to turn off the engine upon arriving at a school, and restart it no more than **30 seconds** before departing.

2) When within 100 feet of a School

School bus drivers are required to turn off the engine when within 100 feet of a school, and restart it no more than **30 seconds** before departing.

Transit buses and commercial motor vehicles are prohibited from idling for more than **5 minutes**.

3) Other Locations Beyond 100 feet of a School

School bus drivers are prohibited from idling more than **5 minutes** at locations beyond schools, such as school bus stops, or school activity destinations.

In addition, a new regulation requires commercial motor vehicle drivers to not idle their engines for more than 5 minutes at any location.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR?

1) Vehicles Subject to Idling Restrictions

- **School Buses Transporting School-Aged Children** to or from Public or Private School or School Activities: school buses, school pupil activity buses, and youth buses
- **Charter Buses and Transit Buses**
- **Commercial Motor Vehicles:** delivery vehicles, maintenance vehicles, and construction vehicles

2) Fuel Types

All fuel types are subject to the regulation. Electric engines are exempt.

- Diesel
- Gas
- CNG

3) Idling Restricted at K-12 Schools

Idling is restricted at or near any public or private school used for purposes of the education of pupils at or below the 12th grade level.

HOW DO I REPORT AN IDLING VIOLATION?

- 1) **Submit an online complaint form at http://www.arb.ca.gov/enf/vehcmplts/idle_complaint.htm**
- 2) **Call the ARB at 1-800-END-SMOG (1-800-363-7664)**
- 3) **Contact your local air pollution control or air quality management district at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/capcoa/roster.htm>**

ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS?

Yes, there are idling exemptions including, but not limited to:

- in the midst of traffic
- to ascertain safe operating conditions of the bus or vehicle
- for vehicle testing, service, repair, or diagnostic purposes
- to operate equipment needed by persons with disabilities and heaters or air conditioners for children with exceptional needs
- See Regulation for details (visit <http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/sbidling/fro.pdf>)

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE?

The driver of the vehicle is subject to a minimum civil penalty of \$100 and possible criminal penalties as specified in the Health and Safety Code.

DO PASSENGER VEHICLES EMIT HARMFUL POLLUTANTS TOO?

Yes, idling of passenger vehicles emits harmful pollutants too. Although this regulation does not apply to passenger vehicles, **YOU SHOULD TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE WHENEVER YOU CAN IF YOU PARK NEAR A SCHOOL.**